

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows. The following is a complete listing of the claims that replaces all previous versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of issuing inflation-linked securities, comprising: purchasing, by a trust, fixed income securities issued by a private issuer, wherein the fixed income securities have a first maturity date;

entering into, by the trust, an inflation swap agreement with a swap counterparty, wherein the inflation swap agreement obligates the trust to make periodic fixed payments to the swap counterparty in exchange for periodic floating payments from the swap counterparty dependent upon an inflation index; and

issuing, by the trust, inflation-linked securities to investors, wherein the inflation-linked securities comprise a principal amount and an interest rate, and wherein at least one of the principal amount and the interest rate are related to the inflation index, wherein the inflation-linked securities have a second maturity date that matches the first maturity date of the fixed income securities, and wherein the inflation-linked securities are backed by the fixed income securities of the private issuer so that the investors can own inflation-linked securities backed by fixed income securities of the private issuer, without the private issuer having to issue the inflation-linked securities.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the trust is a limited liability company.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the trust is a special purpose vehicle.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fixed income securities purchased by the trust were previously issued by the issuer as part of a single, previous offering by the issuer.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fixed income securities purchased by the trust are directly purchased from the issuer by the trust.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the end of the term of the inflation swap agreement corresponds to the first maturity date of the fixed income securities.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein an interest rate on the inflation-linked securities issued by the trust ~~corresponds~~ is related to the rate on the floating payments paid by the swap counterparty to the trust pursuant to the inflation swap agreement.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein an interest rate on the periodic fixed payments paid to the swap counterparty by the trust pursuant to the inflation swap agreement ~~corresponds~~ is related to the coupon rate on the fixed-income securities purchased by the trust.

11-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method comprising, underwriting an offering of debt securities by a trust, wherein the debt securities have a first maturity date, and wherein each of the debt securities comprises:

a principal amount; and

a interest rate, wherein at least one of the principal amount and the interest rate are related to an inflation index, wherein the security is offered by the trust, and wherein the trust:

purchased fixed income securities issued by a private issuer, wherein the fixed income securities have a second maturity date that matches the first security date; and

entered into an inflation swap agreement with a swap counterparty, wherein the inflation swap agreement obligates the trust to make periodic fixed payments to the swap counterparty in exchange for periodic floating payments from the swap counterparty dependent upon an inflation index, wherein each of the debt securities are backed by the fixed income securities of the private issuer so that the investors can own inflation-linked securities backed by fixed income securities of the private issuer, without the private issuer having to issue the inflation-linked securities.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the fixed income securities purchased by the trust were previously issued by the issuer as part of a single, previous offering by the issuer.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the fixed income securities purchased by the trust are directly purchased from the issuer by the trust.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the end of the term of the inflation swap agreement corresponds to the second maturity date of the fixed income securities purchased by the trust.

34. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising modeling, using a computer-based modeling system, a correlation between inflation and a likelihood that the private issuer defaults on the fixed income securities.